Proposal to Identify Ecologically Important Areas

WCMAC Meeting - April 23, 2014



MSP Context: 43.372.040

(6) The marine management plan must include but not be limited to...

Maps of Key Ecological Areas, Human Uses, and Appropriate Locations for Renewable Energy Ecosystem Assessment

> Marine Spatial Plan

Recommendations for Use Priorities and Limitations, Siting Criteria, and Protection of Unique and Sensitive Biogenic Features

Implementation Strategy
Using Existing State and
Local Authorities

Coordination Framework for Review of Renewable Energy Projects

(c) A series of maps that, at a minimum, summarize available data on:

The key ecological aspects of the marine ecosystem, including physical and biological characteristics, as well as areas that are environmentally sensitive or contain unique or sensitive species or biological communities that must be conserved and warrant protective measures....

Ecologically Important Areas

Proposed Process

► May-Dec 2014	Work with Federal Agencies, Tribes, and Science Panel on Use of Available Data to Develop an Initial Map of Ecologically Important Areas
▶ Jan 7, 2015	WCMAC Work Session to Review Initial Map, Data Used and Assumptions, and Provide Feedback
▶ Jan-Mar 2015	Overlay Map of Ecologically Important Areas with PNNL's Energy Siting Maps, Review Maps with Tribes and Solicit Feedback, and Model Energy Alternatives
Mar 25, 2015	WCMAC Work Session to Review Energy Alternatives and Provide Feedback
► Apr-Jun 2015	Work with WCMAC and Tribes to Modify Alternatives, as needed, and Finalize Report

Next Steps

Work with Federal Agencies, Tribes, and Science Panel (Including PNNL Scientists who Produced Energy Report) to:

- Examine and Potentially Refine Available Data
 - Physical and Biological Information; Life History Characteristics; Migratory Patterns
 - Fish and Wildlife Surveys (Primarily Presence/Absence)
 - Note: If Fishery Independent Surveys are Not Available, Will Use Fishery Logbook Data as a Proxy
 - Habitat Surveys—Bottom Habitat and Biogenic Data
- Develop and Discuss Criteria for Ecological Value
- Produce an Initial Map of Ecologically Important Areas